

# HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

---

*Introduced by: Summers*

---

---

A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to assign the Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee to meet with the Indiana Commission on Autism to study criminal justice issues concerning individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

*Whereas, Autism spectrum disorders are serious and disabling lifelong conditions that affect social behavior and communication;*

*Whereas, People affected by autism spectrum disorders experience emotional or physical violence and abuse at a rate of up to 12 times higher than their peers without such disorders;*

*Whereas, When persons affected by autism spectrum disorders come to the attention of the criminal justice system, it is often the result of their social and communication difficulties being misunderstood and because they are not given*



*appropriate support;*

*Whereas, Police officers, attorneys, judges, and court officials need more information regarding autism spectrum disorders to develop effective strategies for dealing with people who have these disorders; and*

*Whereas, Because an autism spectrum disorder is not always easily recognized, cooperation between the Indiana Commission on Autism and the Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee can help develop effective policies to ensure that people with autism spectrum disorders are treated justly and fairly in the criminal justice system: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
- 2           Legislative Council to assign to the Criminal Law and Sentencing
- 3           Policy Study Committee the duty of meeting with the Indiana
- 4           Commission on Autism to study criminal justice issues concerning
- 5           individuals with autism spectrum disorders.
- 6           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 7           Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the members of the
- 8           Indiana Commission on Autism and the Criminal Law and Sentencing
- 9           Policy Committee.

